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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd April 1905.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

Writing about the proposals now being discussed in the English press about a renewal of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance on a wider basis at the expiry of the existing agreement, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April remarks that such a renewal of the Alliance on the basis suggested might be welcome both to Eng land and to Japan, but it is doubtful if it can mean any reduction in the military burdens of India. For it can never be considered possible that the English will so far trust to Japan as to consent to a reduction of their military forces in India. How again can it be considered possible that at times they will not incur special expenditure on arms, ammunition and the like! But perhaps it may be that the present rate of high speed at which the military expenses of India are increasing might be to some extent slowed down.

Daily Hitavadi, April 19th, 1905.

The proposed renewal of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

On the other hand, with the prospect of obtaining the assistance of the Japanese army at the time of need, the English will feel, less than ever, the necessity of making increased use of the Indian element in the Indian Army. The hope which was hitherto entertained that some day or other the English would surely call the people of India to the sacred task of defending their country is getting feebler and feebler with all this talk of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. So there is not much for the Indian public to rejoice over at these proposals. Again, it does not seem credible, if the internal state of Russia is considered, that that power will soon dare to invade India. So there does not seem to be much ground for alarm from that quarter. But the English cannot any the more allay their anxiety. So it ought to be considered a great gain if the effect of this Alliance is to remove the Russian scare from the minds of the English.

2. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 16th April has the following:—

Hitavarta, April 16th, 1905.

The Secret of the Japanese successes.

The secret of the victories which Japan is gaining over Russia in the present struggle lies in the fact that the Japanese knows how to lay down his life for the service of his country. The Russians can make manly stands in the field of battle and meet death when it comes while the Japanese go and face death for the sake of honour and their fatherland. The Russians, therefore, cannot stand before them. So long as we do not learn how to die, the path to our progress will not be clear.

3. An Englishman, writes the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 19th April, possessing large Japanese experience says that the Japanese Samurai despise the English for their weakness, and think that the motive of the English in making an alliance with them is to check Russia, and the moment this purpose will be served the alliance will be broken. It is because Japan now requires the support of the English that she is dealing so gently with them. The moment she will rally a little after vanquishing Russia she will set all Europe at naught.

Sandhya, April 19th, 1905.

Japan's relations with England.

4. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says:—

Samay, April 14th, 1905.

The increase of the Indian army.

The fear that in case of a war with Russia for the sake of India the English navy will be useless is troubling the English very much. If England still follows the policy of distrust of the Indians, then by increasing the European army in India by 50,000 soldiers she can increase the native army only by one lakh. But if the Government of India spends its last pie in increasing the army in this manner it will not still have a sufficient army at its disposal to check the rebellious spirit of the distrusted Indians and fight the Russians on the frontier.

5. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that although the rumoured concentration of Russian forces on the Afghan frontier has been denied at St. Petersberg, yet, considering the policy which England is following in relation to Tibet, Afghanistan, Persia, &c., it is only natural that Russia should not remain idle. But then there is the Russo-Japanese war which may prevent her from doing anything at present.

Hitavadi, April 14th, 1905.

The rumoured Russian movement on the Afghan frontier.

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

The rumoured Russian advance towards India.

6. Referring to the rumoured advance of Russian troops towards India, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says that, considering the strength of the frontiers and the loyalty of the people of India, it can be said that not a hair of India can be touched by Russia.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 17th, 1905.

The Afghan Frontier question.

7. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says:—

God alone knows whether the result of the Kabul Mission as regards the Frontier question will be published or permanently sealed from public view. We are anxious only because whenever there is a rumour of the Russian Bear having made its appearance on the Afghan frontier, the Simla Hills tremble and the necessity of making an expedition is felt there. The Viceroy is a big personage, he can say big words and do big works—we should have nothing to do with that. But we small men want to hear about important affairs of State only because our money and blood are intimately concerned in the English maxim-gun, Bible and bayonet.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN, April 17th, 1905.

The *Times* of Bombay on the appointment of a Russian Consul at Bunder Abbas.

8. In commenting upon the *Times* of Bombay's statement deploring the appointment of a Russian Consul at Bunder Abbas the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 17th April observes as follows:—

What necessity has compelled Persia to grant the concession to the Russians? It is time now for the Persians to treat the ports like Bunder Abbas, Armuz, &c., as their Port Arthur by strongly fortifying them.

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

The cost of the Tibet Mission.

9. Referring to Mr. Baker's reply to the demand that England should pay the cost of the Tibet Mission, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—

Are the authorities ever in want of arguments to support their actions? And where there is a want of arguments, how long does it take them to have a validating Act passed?

DAILY HITAVADI, April 17th, 1905.

The Tibet Convention.

10. Referring to the news supplied by Reuter that two more articles of the Tibet Convention, viz., the establishment of English marts in Tibet and the levy of transit duties on Tibetan articles, will be suspended for some time, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says that in this way Lord Curzon's favourite Peace Mission will end in a ludicrous fiasco.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(*a*)—*Police.*

KRISHNANAGAR, April 5th, 1905.

Rai M. S. Chaudhury Bahadur.

11. A correspondent of the *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar] of the 5th April in noticing the recent transfer of Rai Madhu Sudhan Chaudhury Bahadur, the local District Superintendent of Police to Dinajpur, expresses the opinion that though crime appears to have increased to some extent in the district during his *regime*, the District Superintendent personally cannot be held responsible for this increase.

KRISHNANAGAR.

Crime at Krishnagar.

12. The same paper complains that for about a month new cases of theft and petty dacoity, both at day and at night have been incessantly cropping up in the town of Krishnagar. The local people are almost in a panic.

Special reference is made to a case of theft which was attempted on the night of the 4th April last, on the house of a local pleader named Syamapada Mukerjee. In this case it is alleged that a young Musalman lad, who tried to catch the thieves, got such a severe cut from a dagger in the attempt that his life is despaired of. If the lad's wound had been stanched in time, his life would not probably have been jeopardised, but as it was, though the doctor from the Hospital was immediately sent for, for this purpose, he was not available then.

13. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 8th April complains of the existence of prostitutes' quarters in Beadon Street, north of the Beadon Park, Calcutta. The Park is the evening resort of school and college boys and respectable gentlemen in that part of the town. The authorities are requested to remove the prostitutes from the place.

Prostitutes near the Beadon Park, Calcutta.

NAVA YUG, April 8th, 1905.

14. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 8th April draws attention to the doings of a gang of *budmashes* in Nilmoney Mullik's Lane, Punchanontola, in Howrah. Brick-bats are thrown into houses from evening till daylight, and thefts are of constant occurrence. The local public are in a state of panic.

Crime in Howrah town.

HOWRAH HITAISHI, April 8th, 1905.

15. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April makes the following complaint against the Daroga Babu of the Syamnagar outpost, Nakipur, in Khulna. It is alleged that on the night of the 31st March last, this daroga was a guest at the hut of one Luxmi Boistabi in order to drink the juice of the date-palm. Near this hut were the houses of a number of *palki*-bearers, who, after their day's work, were beguiling themselves with devotional music. The noise of this music annoyed the daroga, but the bearers refused to accede to his wishes and stop their music. A free fight thereupon ensued between the two parties, in the course of which a number of females were maltreated by the daroga's followers. It is a question under what law this daroga entered the homes of peaceful citizens at night when not in uniform, to molest them in this outrageous fashion.

An allegation against a daroga in Khulna.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 9th, 1905.

16. A correspondent writing from Noakhali to the same paper makes the following allegations against the local police. It appears that the local festivities in connexion with the *Dol jatra* have been for the last two years taken direct charge of by the police. The students of that place having declared their intention of having nothing to do with any immoral festivities like *khemta nautch*, the police tricked them into attending one by first publicly giving out that the party was to be a *jatra* one, and was to be conducted in a strictly decent fashion. When the trick was found out and the students protested, they were coolly told to go away if they liked, as they had not been specially invited to attend.

Allegations against the Noakhali police.

DAILY HITAVADI,

17. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 11th April dwells on the extent to which, owing to the operations of the Arms Act, the people have been rendered helpless to protect themselves from dacoities, cases of which are reported in increasing numbers from all parts of the country, and appeals to Government to take special measures for the suppression of this form of crime.

Dacoities in Bengal.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, April 11th, 1905.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 18th April says that the dacoits in the country can be suppressed only if village panchayets are armed and trained as volunteers and vested with necessary powers.

Suppression of dacoits in the country.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, April 18th, 1905

19. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 12th April publishes a complaint from Manikpur, English Bazar, that a tiger and a tigress have begun to commit terrible depredations in the neighbourhood.

Depredations of a tiger in Malda.

MALDAHA SAMACHAR, April 12th, 1905.

20. The *Swadeshi* [Barisal] of the 21st March speaks of the ravages of wild animals in the Hatishar village in the Backergunge district. A wild buffalo was, with great difficulty and after it had caused great harm, killed by Mr. S. M. Hossain. A few days ago an old widow was wounded by a tiger in the village. People are helpless for want of arms.

Wild animals in a village in the Backergunge district.

SWADESHI, March 21st, 1905.

21. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th April writes:—

The Makshudpur thana in this district is going to be reduced to an outpost and a new thana will be opened at Fatehpur. There will be some attendant changes of jurisdiction. The Amgram khal will be taken as the boundary. The jurisdiction on the east of the khal which now forms the western part of Madaripur will pass under Makshudpur. Makshudpur is included in the Sadar

Proposed change of jurisdiction of a thana in Faridpur.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, April 13th, 1905.

subdivision of Faridpur. If the Amgram khal is fixed as the boundary, the same village situated on the east and west banks of this khal will be placed under the different jurisdictions of two separate thanas. This will give rise to great difficulties in connexion with the service of summonses from the courts. We suggest that instead of the Amgram khal, the Bajid khal should be fixed as the boundary. Bajid, Gobinda Boulgram and other villages are almost a part of Fatehpur.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, April 13th, 1905.

Rumoured removal of a thana in Faridpur.

22. The same paper in noticing a rumour that it is proposed to remove the Bhusna thana in that district to Boalmadhi, points out that the situation of the latter place will not be central with respect to the villages under its jurisdiction. For in the north, this jurisdiction would extend to some 20 or 22 miles (as in the case of villages like Faridpur, Chandpur and Latubdia) while on the south, just across the Boalmadhi Ghat would begin the jurisdiction of the district of Jessore.

SANDHYA, April 13th, 1905.

The police and Mr. Tahl Ram.

23. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 13th April writes:—

We have said before and we say it again that it would be a matter of great regret if anything came out showing the least connection of the police with the Tahl Ram affair. A good many rumours to the discredit of the police in this connexion are already in the air. We trust they will all turn out to be false. It is further said that certain distinguished missionaries are also making special efforts to prevent Tahl Ram from speaking anywhere in public again.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR, April 14th, 1905.

Mr. Tahl Ram.

24. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April writes:—

We are extremely glad to hear that the Chief Presidency Magistrate has forbidden Mr. Tahl Ram to preach in College Square. But we understand that Mr. Tahl Ram, driven from college Square, has begun anew his flow of oratory in the Beadon Gardens. These gardens are frequented in the evening by a number of old people and a large number of students. The presence of the crowds which are attracted by Mr. Tahl Ram's speeches can never be welcome to these users of the gardens. Will not our worthy Commissioner of Police do something to put the curb on the tongue of this half-crazy gentleman?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

The Nadia Police.

25. The same paper writes:—

Crime is on the increase in the Bengal mufassal. Rai Madhu Sudan Chaudhry Bahadur was hitherto the District Superintendent of Police in Nadia. During his *regime* thieves and dacoits in that district were kept under proper control. With his departure elsewhere there has become noticeable a recrudescence of the old outrages. Places from which formerly not even a single case of crime was reported, are now reporting several. What can be a greater matter for surprise? We have received ample evidence of the incompetency of the Nadia Police. A terrible dacoity has recently been committed in the Jairampur post office in that district, and Government money and papers have been stolen. The enquiry into this case has been entrusted to a mere head-constable. We trust the Subdivisional Officer of Chuadanga will take special interest in the present enquiry.

HITAVADI, April 14th, 1905.

Crime in a thana in the Khulna district.

26. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April speaks of the recrudescence of theft and *budmashi* within the jurisdiction of the Fultala outpost in the Khulna district A few months ago a female child was stolen from the house of a musalman.

BASUMATI, April 15th, 1905.

An Inspector of Police eulogised.

27. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 15th April notices appreciatively the services of Babu Peary Mohan Biswas, Police Inspector of Barisal in recently arresting a number of dacoits who infested the three districts of Khulna, Faridpur and Backergunge, and goes on to remark that one does not expect from the new class of passed Sub-Inspectors the activity and ability displayed in cases like these by the old school of experienced Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. If those who had passed their lives in the Police were properly encouraged and rewarded by Government, these officers would display more zeal than now in the preservation of the public peace. Do the recommendations of the Police Commission provide for justice to the old and experienced members of the force?

28. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 19th March speaks of the oppressions of a notorious thief named Mendi Ali, an inhabitant of the Natai village near Brahmanbaria in the Tippera district. The man is said to be in the good graces of the local police. Thefts are not properly enquired into. Mendi Ali's name has been struck off the register of "C" class *dagis*. Even standing crops are stolen by the ruffian. He is really a dangerous man.

PRATINIDHI, March 19th, 1905.

A notorious thief in the Tippera district.

29. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 19th April says that great numbers of cattle, &c., are being killed by unscrupulous persons in Jhargram and other adjoining places, for the sake of their hides. Nothing has yet been able to stop this crime.

MEDINI BANDHAV, April 19th, 1905.

Killing of cattle for hides in Midnapore.

30. The same paper draws the attention of the authorities to the extremely vexatious annoyance daily caused by certain grass-cutters to persons going to bathe in the Kansabati river near Jagannath Mandir Ghat. Persons going to bathe have to cross a nulla on their way where over a hundred grass-cutters wash their grass and block the way, sometimes even insulting persons by throwing dirty water at them. The matter is serious and may cause a breach of the peace if remedial measures are not taken early.

MEDINI BANDHAV,

A complaint.

31. The *Swadeshi* [Barisal] of the 21st March complains of the prevalence of Kabuli oppression in all parts of India. Three Kabulis recently committed a robbery in a house in Ahmedabad in Gujerat, killed the house-owner and carried away everything they found. If the British Government, says the writer, cannot save the people from such oppressions, it should hand over the Indian Empire to the Kabul Government.

SWADESHI, April 21st, 1905.

Kabuli oppression.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

32. The *Faridpur Haitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th March complains that the nine Honorary Benches in Faridpur have not succeeded in winning the confidence of the local public by their method of administering justice.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, March 13th, 1905.

The Faridpur Honorary Benches.

33. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 19th March says that the peons of the Brahmanbaria Munsifi in the Tippera district are collecting subscriptions, generally by playing on the fears of the local people, for celebrating the *Annapurna puja*. This affair is attended with great oppression, and it is believed that there are influential men to back it. The attention of the District Judge is drawn to the matter.

PRATINIDHI, March 19th, 1905.

The peons of the Brahmanbaria Munsifi in the Tippera district.

34. The *Charumihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th April writes:—

We are receiving a good many complaints about the working of the local Sub-Registry office. There is unnecessary delay in the returning of documents owing to the Sub-Registrar not signing the documents immediately after they are registered. Further, copies of registered documents are not supplied without great delay.

CHARU MIHIR, April 4th, 1905.

The Mymensingh Sub-Registry office.

35. The *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar] of the 5th April notices certain complaints about the dilatory habits of the *amla* of the Nadia Collectorate and Criminal Courts and the inconvenience to the public occasioned thereby.

KRISHNANAGAR, April 5th, 1905.

A complaint against the *amla* of the Nadia Collectorate and Criminal Courts.

36. In criticising the notice which has been recently served on Mr. Tahl Ram by the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta to abstain from preaching in College Square, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI, April 9th, 1905.

The recent proceedings against Tahl Ram.

We do not think that even if a larger crowd assembled in College Square than that attracted by Mr. Tahl Ram's speeches, there would be any risk of any among them getting drowned in the tank. What then can explain the sudden anxiety of the Chief Presidency Magistrate on this score? And if there is any justification for this anxiety, why has the preaching of the Christian missionaries here not yet been interfered with?

SANJIVANI, April 13th, 1905.

The appointment of Mr. Adamson as Chief Judge of the Rangoon Chief Court.

37. The appointment of Mr. Adamson as Chief Judge of the Rangoon Chief Court, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th April, has given rise to a strong protest from all quarters, as it is feared that the independence of the Chief Court will thereby be lost. The reply of the Government of India can hardly be regarded as satisfactory. Government would, if it could do so, destroy the independence of the High Courts in India by appointing civilians as Chief Justices.

SANJIVANI.

The District Magistrate of Murshidabad in a criminal case.

38. The same paper writes :—

One Gati Mandal lodged certain information at the Saktipur outpost in Murshidabad against Mr. Williamson of the Gordwara *Kuthi*. The Police Sub-Inspector and Inspector made an enquiry and supported Gati Mandal. On this the Subdivisional Magistrate of Kandi, Mr. A. Islam, issued a notice calling upon Gati to shew cause why he should not be prosecuted for giving false information. The latter then filed a regular complaint against Mr. Williamson. An enquiry was held by a Sub-Deputy Magistrate, who reported the case to be true. But all the same, Mr. Islam ordered the prosecution of Gati, but the High Court quashed the proceedings. After a month the District Magistrate of Murshidabad ordered the Subdivisional Magistrate to prosecute the man again on the old charge. The latter wrote to the District Magistrate as follows :—

SIR,

With reference to your No. 211, dated the 13th instant, I have the honour to state that I have recorded a fresh order for prosecution of Gati Mandal as directed. The records of the case are submitted herein for passing the necessary orders for trial.

I have, &c.,

Sd.) A. ISLAM.

The man Gati Mandal indeed acted most indiscreetly in bringing a case against a European and he now feels the consequences. The Subdivisional Magistrate is a mere puppet in the hands of the District Magistrate. This is called impartial trial in this country!

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR, April 14th, 1905.

A case before the Joint Magistrate of Raniganj.

39. In continuing its notice of the case against Mr. Todd in the Court of the Joint Magistrate of Raniganj (referred to in paragraph 30 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 15th April 1905), the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April writes :—

We cannot but confess to a feeling of surprise at the Joint Magistrate's grounds for dismissing the case. In the opening portions of his judgment he has stated that the plaintiff asked for the issue of summonses on 17 witnesses but that he, in his orders on that application, did not consider it necessary to call any witnesses at all. Yet in the concluding portions of the same judgment he declares that the plaintiff could not prove his case.

In another portion of his judgment he has written that until the arrival of a pleader from Burdwan to support him, the plaintiff did not lay much stress on the charge under section 296. In reply to this we might urge : How could the plaintiff lay any stress on this point, seeing that both during his own examination and that of his witnesses, his mukhtar was not allowed by the Court to put any questions? The Court itself did all the questioning.

We shall conclude with a reference to another point in connexion with this case. When the Joint Magistrate went to Asansol, the plaintiff was not present at that place, and he had to be specially sent for. But does this indicate that the plaintiff took no personal interest in the case, and that the case was in fact being conducted by Dost Mahomed as stated by the Joint Magistrate in his judgment? The fact is that the Joint Magistrate went to the spot somewhat later than the time originally fixed by him, and that is the reason why the plaintiff was not there to meet him.

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

A murder case.

40. Referring to the appeal case in the High Court in which one Mafariar Rahman, an inhabitant of Khulna, stands convicted on the charge of having murdered his father, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says that the case has created a sensation

and that the decision of the High Court is awaited with great interest. The conduct of the police, the finding of the Sessions Judge and the action of the Government Pleader are some of the points in this case that are exercising the public mind.

41. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 16th April learns that the people of Sirajganj, in Pabna, are at their wits' end to see the doings of a local official. Being a very lazy man, what he does is to dismiss cases coming before him. He has a few favourites among the local pleaders and the litigants who engage these to conduct their cases have a sure chance of success. The paper asks the authorities to warn him, otherwise it will be obliged to publish the facts.

HITAVARTA, April 16th, 1905.

A *Hakim* of Sirajganj.

42. The same paper is glad that Mr. Swinhoe, a Barrister-at-law, has been appointed to be the second Presidency Magistrate of the Calcutta Police Court in place of a civilian who usually filled this appointment in the past.

HITAVARTA.

The second Presidency Magistrateship, Calcutta.

43. In noticing Mr. Carey's doings in Azim Khan's case, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April asks, when the Government itself doubts the legality of Mr. Carey's action in the matter, will it not take any steps to redress the wrong done to the other party?

HINDI BANGAVASI, April 17th, 1905.

Azim Khan's case and Mr. Carey.

(*d*)—*Education.*

44. The *Shikhsha* [Bankipur] of the 6th April asks all the public Associations of Bihar to petition the Government protesting against the new scheme for rural primary education, as the measure for which the Government is proposing to spend a large sum of money is likely to do more harm than good.

SHIKHSHA, April 6th, 1905.

Rural primary education.

45. The same paper, in giving a list of words to show their gender, has words like *Atshrate* (syphilis) *suzak* (gonorrhœa).

SHIKSHA.

Objectionable terms used in journal.

46. The following extract from a paper read at the twelfth meeting of the fifth annual session of the Sahitya Sabha is published in the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 8th April:—

HOWRAH HITAISHI, April 8th, 1905.

The proposed rural schools in Bengal.

The primers which under the present system are prescribed for the Lower Primary Examination are all written in simple language, and under the distinct directions of Government, simple lessons in Botany, Physiology, Agriculture, Physics, Chemistry, Hygiene, &c., have been incorporated in them. It must be admitted therefore that the present system does provide a certain amount of facility for instruction in agriculture. And this existing system has not yet been in operation for a sufficient time to enable a judgment to be pronounced as to its success or failure. Why then should a new system be proposed to be introduced within so short a time without giving the present system a longer trial?

Further, it is not easy to understand why in the curriculum of the proposed rural schools instruction in all scientific subjects, except Agriculture, is intended to be tabooed. Government may urge that these schools are intended for agriculturists who have no need to study any other science but agriculture. But while it may be admitted that these schools are intended for agriculturists, one may ask all the same whether it is under contemplation to definitely exclude the sons of other classes of the community from these schools. If it is, where are the sons of the blacksmiths and the weavers for instance to go to for their education? It is not likely that Government will go to the expense of the keeping up of two schools in a single village. And if they are permitted to join these schools, why should their instruction also be conducted on the same rigid lines as that of the agriculturists? Lastly, why is Hygiene proposed to be omitted from the syllabus? It is impossible to exaggerate its utility in the case of the malaria-stricken peasant of Bengal.

47. The *Mohammadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April writes:—

MOHAMMADI, April 14th, 1905.

Primary text-books.

It must be admitted on all hands that the books fixed as primary text-books do not suit the capacities of our boys. The language of the books is quite unintelligible owing

to their being translations from English. How is it that illustrations are not taken from things familiar to Bengali boys? A Bengali text-book published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. has the line. An authoress had a cart of the name of Timothy. Now, Timothy is a name which is quite unfamiliar to Bengali boys.

It is not easy to get proper teachers. The *gurus* are in most cases quite unable to teach the subjects that have now been introduced. For example, none among them understand the principles contained in the scientific primer entitled নিম্ন প্রাথমিক বিজ্ঞান পাঠ and cannot therefore explain them to the students. The inspecting pandits are in most cases a disreputable lot and are quite unfit for the task for which they are appointed. Many malpractices are prevalent among teachers of primary schools which must be put down before any real improvement can be expected.

EDUCATION GAZETTE, April 14th, 1905.

Rural Schools in Bengal.

48. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 14th April disapproves of the proposal to divide the Bengali language into four dialects for the purpose of preparing text-books for rural schools. First let agriculturists' sons, says the paper, be attracted to rural schools by inducements of scholarships. Nowhere has it been found possible to do this except by compulsory legislation.

HINDI BANGAVASI, April 17th, 1905.

The proposed scheme for rural primary education.

49. In criticizing the Government Resolution on the scheme for Rural Primary Schools in Bengal, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April protests against the measure in the following terms:—

The motive of Government may be good, but the scheme is likely to be very injurious to the growth of Bengali literature. No one seems to have complained against the present system of Primary Education. There must be some reason for the proposed scheme but it is known to the Government only.

SANDHYA, April 18th, 1905.

The break-up of the Bengali language.

50. It is the overweening pride, the self-sufficiency and contempt for others, writes the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 18th April, that prompt Englishmen to break up the Bengali language and to reconstruct it according to their own lights. It is not likely therefore that arguments, however convincing, will have any effect. They seem to labour under the misapprehension that the Bengali language is no language at all and that it is incapable of any improvement. What a misfortune this! How incongruous it would be if the crow were to call upon the cuckoo to give up its own voice and learn the cawing of the former! Englishmen seem to believe that the Bengali language is fit only for the uncultured and that its study cannot make a man civilised.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 10th 1905.

Primary education.

51. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th April says:—

The old system of primary education was much better than the current one. The old text-books were such as gave the student and the teacher pleasure in reading and teaching. There was a central examination which used to stimulate *gurumahasayas* with hopes of reward to work hard for training up boys for it. The present systemof monthly allowances to *gurumahasayas* is no doubt good, but it holds out no prospect of improvement. The present text-books also are calculated to cool the enthusiasm of both the student and the teacher. The *gurumahasaya* does not know what to teach—the books contain nothing particular for which his teaching may be necessary. The student also does not find anything particular to study in the books. The new system has also the fault of trying to teach the same thing to everybody irrespective of external conditions. Drill and drawing may be useful to town boys and European boys, but of what possible use can they be to the agriculturist's son?

DAILY HITAVADI.

The technical and agricultural schools in Bengal.

52. The same paper says:—

Government does not appear to take much interest in the technical schools in Bengal. Only one scholarship was given last year in Bengal, namely, that by the Nadia District Board, for the training of a boy in earthenwork manufacture in Bombay. There is only one agricultural school in the whole province, that in Burdwan, and the annual cost of this school is Rs. 212. How magnanimous on the part of the Government to spend such a sum annually for the agricultural welfare of seven crores of Bengalis!'

53. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April writes:— DAILY HITAVADI, April 9th, 1905.

Industrial education.

If the Government encourage the Association for the promotion of Scientific and Industrial Education in India and assist them in founding a glass factory and place the factory under the charge of Mr. Wagle, a good number of Indians can then in a short time find a new avenue of employment open to them, and the looting of the country by foreign traders can to some extent be checked.

54. Referring to the proposal of making extensions to the Calcutta Senate House and to the rumour that Madhab Babu's Bazar will be acquired by Government for the purpose, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th April says that the Bazar is no doubt a very filthy and unhealthy place, nevertheless it supplies the wants of the people of the Pataldanga quarter. If a new bazar could be established in the vicinity, there would be no objection to Madhab Babu's Bazar being taken up for the purposes of the University. The suggestion to remove the Presidency College to a place outside Calcutta and to make use of the College building for the University is open to objection. It would be a much better plan to acquire the unhealthy *bustees* situate between the Senate House and the Eden Hostel for the required purpose. SANJIVANI, April 13th, 1905.

The proposed extension of the University Building in Calcutta.

55. The same paper says that the members of the Committee for making rules for University Examinations have decided that candidates for the Entrance Examination should not be permitted to use the language of text-books in answering questions on History. It is strange that persons who have not the sense to perceive that by getting by heart the language of historical text-books boys are assisted in acquiring a knowledge of English are now the guardians of higher education. SANJIVANI.

History in the Entrance Examination.

56. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says:— HITAVADI. April 14th, 1905.

The Ranchi College Fund.

The project that the names of large subscribers to the Ranchi College Fund will be preserved in some form or other in that college will have its desired effect on title-hunting zamindars Many of them will probably make loans to subscribe to the fund. Can there be any hitch in the collection of funds for a project actively supported by the Lieutenant-Governor?

57. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 17th April has the following in its English columns:— DACCA GAZETTE, April 17th, 1905.

The Assam Educational Service.

The Secretary of State for India has lately sanctioned two appointments of Inspector of Schools for the Province of Assam—one for the Surma Valley, the other for the Brahmaputra Valley—on a salary of Rs. 400 rising to Rs. 800 in eight years. Rai Saheb Pramoda Kumar Bose, Principal of the Murarichand College, Sylhet, has been appointed to the post in the Surma Valley. As may naturally be expected, this appointment has caused serious heart-burning and disappointment to the educated public of Assam in general and the existing members of the Education Department in particular. Assam may now claim by dozens among its graduates young men equally competent with, if not more competent than, Rai Saheb Pramoda Kumar for the post. Some of these graduates would surely have come forward as willing candidates for this appointment, had not the Assam Government stolen a march upon them in the way it did. Then again, in the rank of Head-masters of Government schools and in the rank of Deputy Inspectors of Schools there are gentlemen who, by reason of their attainments and experiences, may legitimately aspire to a promotion to one or other of the two posts. Comparison is always odious, so we must not refer to any individual case. We would simply say, with some degree of positiveness, that there are Headmasters and Deputy Inspectors who are decidedly superior to the lucky Rai Saheb, both in University career and in other qualifications. Some of them, again, are natives of the Province, which fact alone goes a great way to give them some show of claim in preference to others, though better qualified. The hot haste in which the post has been disposed of is also worthy of notice. Unlike what is usually done in similar cases, it was not advertised for in the official Gazette, or any other newspaper. In a manner the post was no sooner sanctioned than filled up. In all the circulars issued from time to time Mr. Fuller professes himself to be a sincere patron of the children of the soil,

urging the propriety and expediency of giving preference to deserving candidates among them while filling up vacancies in the several departments of the Assam Administration. We fail to understand how, after all these professions and in deviation from the general policy of the Administration, the Assam Chief could be prevailed upon to be so enamoured of Rai Saheb Pramoda Kumar. We now hope Mr. Fuller will try to undo, as far as possible, the evil already done to Assam by appointing or promoting a capable graduate of the Province to the post in the Brahmaputra Valley.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HOWRAH HITAISHI, April 8th, 1905.

The Howrah Municipality.

58. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 8th April complains about the negligence displayed by the Howrah Municipality in the matter of street-lighting as well as in that of street conservancy.

HOWRAH HITAISHI.

The plague in the Howrah district.

59. The same paper reports the prevalence of a severe epidemic of the plague at and near Jhapardah in the Howrah district. Certain villages in this neighbourhood have been absolutely denuded of their inhabitants. Corpses are lying uncremated in several homes. In the town of Howrah also, as in its suburb, Sibpur-Sanapara, the disease is rapidly spreading.

HOWRAH HITAISHI, [April 15th, 1905.

Malaria in the Howrah district.

60. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 15th April says that obstruction of drainage has made many villages in the Howrah district extremely malarious. The attention of the District Magistrate is invited to the condition of the Singti-Sibpore thana.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 9th, 1905.

The new scheme of water-supply for Calcutta.

61. Referring to the new scheme of water-supply for Calcutta which involves the construction of a supply tank at Tallah which will keep the whole town supplied with filtered water day and night, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April writes:—

We shall be glad if the authorities only do something whereby every individual rate-payer in the city gets a supply of filtered water at all hours of the day and night.

NAVA YUG, April 8th, 1905.

Small-pox in fish in Calcutta.

62. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that small-pox has appeared in some kinds of fish, such as *Rui*, *Magur*, *Singi*, *Sol*, &c., sold in Calcutta. The sale of such fish should be prohibited in the town.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, April 13th, 1905.

The Northern Division of Calcutta.

63. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th April complains of the extremely bad condition of Ward No. I of the Calcutta Municipality. The scavenger service is extremely defective. Dead rats and heaps of refuse lie scattered everywhere. In spite of the assertion of the Chairman of the Municipality at a recent meeting of its Commissioners that *extra* men have been engaged to keep the roads in the northern part of the town clean in this plague season, no activity in this direction is seen in Ward No. I. The mortality from plague is very large in this ward.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 10th, 1905.

Bad conservancy in the northern part of Calcutta.

64. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th April says that the filthy condition of the roads in the northern part of Calcutta is caused by the negligence of the drivers of scavenger carts in removing the refuse daily collected in them. Sometimes the carts are so much overloaded that they go on scattering their contents on the roads. It is to be greatly regretted that the authorities take no notice of these things, specially in this season of plague and cholera.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, April 13th, 1905.

The Calcutta Improvement Scheme.

65. Referring to the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th April says that the greatest improvement is required in the northern division of the town which contains many places which may fitly be compared to hell.

66. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that the proposal to introduce a jute-tax in Calcutta is better than the proposal to tax railway passengers to the town as a means to meet the cost of the Improvement Scheme. Does not Government approve of the proposal to meet the cost from its past profits from the East Indian Railway?

HITAVADI, April 14th, 1905.

The cost of the Calcutta Improvement Scheme.

67. The same paper says that the proposed decentralisation of the work of the Calcutta Municipality by dividing it into borough councils has both its good and bad sides. It is good that the Calcutta Municipality will have a control over the water-supply, drainage, etc., of the suburbs. But then the powers of the Municipal Commissioners may be curbed. Of course the Suburban Municipalities and borough councils will send their representatives to the Metropolitan Council, but it is a matter of dispute whether the rate-payers will get adequate return for the rates they pay in the shape of comforts of living. Again, under the present system much of the expenses for those parts of the town from which comparatively small amounts of rates are realised is borne by the genaral fund of the Municipality. But under the proposed system each borough will have to bear the whole of its expenses. This may lead to an increase of taxation and consequently of hardship. Government should not therefore hurry on the reform. Full consideration should be given to the matter and sufficient time should be allowed to the public and the rate-payers of Calcutta for expressing their opinions on the subject.

HITAVADI.

The proposed Municipal reform in Calcutta.

68. Referring to the proposed jute tax in Calcutta, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—

Will the European merchants bear this tax ungrudgingly? If they cannot prevent its imposition, will they not realise it from the people of this country by enhancing the prices of jute-made articles?

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

The proposed jute tax in Calcutta.

69. Referring to the recent cartailment of filtered water-supply in Calcutta for two days, the same paper says that great inconvenience and loss were in many cases caused to the residents of the town by the neglect on the part of the municipal authorities to give a wide publication to the details of the curtailment beforehand. Big earthen water-pots were purchased at four times their usual prices for the purpose of storing water, but in the northern division of the town the supply of water was such as to make this provision unnecessary. The supply was completely stopped in some parts of the southern division of the town, but here many people suffered from not knowing anything of the matter beforehand. Such irregularities are extremely improper in a populous city like Calcutta, where all such sources of water-supply as tanks and wells have heen filled up.

BANGAVASI,

The curtailment of water-supply in Calcutta.

70. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 9th April writes:—

The usual annual *mêla* at Sandeswartala at Chinsura will commence on *Chaitsankranti* day next (April 13th) and continue throughout the month of *Baisakh* following, and it is expected that the gathering on this occasion will not be smaller than those of previous years. In view of the alarming state of the public health of the villages near Chinsura, as indicated by the prevalence of the plague and cholera in them, special care seems necessary on the part of the authorities in the matter of sanitary arrangements for this gathering. The sale of adulterated articles of food, specially of adulterated *ghee*, should be kept under strict watch. Provision should also be made for the prompt removal of the refuse and sweepings which will daily accumulate during the *mêla*.

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA, April 9th, 1905.

The Sandeswartala *mêla* at Chinsura.

71. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 12th April reports, on the authority of its Garbeta correspondent, the outbreak of an epidemic of cholera in the villages in that neighbourhood since the *Doljatra* day. The epidemic is specially virulent in some 25 or 30 villages on both sides of the Silabati stream.

MEDINI BANDHAV, April 12th, 1905.

Cholera in Midnapore.

MALDAHA SAMACHAR, April 12th, 1905.

72. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 12th April writes:—

Wanted re-excavation of two tanks.

The village of Sriramkeli in this district is the seat of a large *melâ* every year on the last day of the month of *Jaistha*. There is a tank in the village named the "Rup Sagar" which forms the main source of local water-supply on these occasions. But this year the water of the tank has grown quite unfit for use owing to weeds and moss having grown in it. Unless steps are taken from now to get it cleared up, great trouble is likely to arise during the *méla* for want of water-supply. Advantage might also be taken of this occasion to clear up another adjoining tank which is named the "Sanatan Sagar."

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR, April 14th, 1905.

73. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April writes:—

The recent Government grant in aid of District Boards.

Government has this year sanctioned a grant of twelve and a half lakhs in aid of the District Boards. But we confess we are not yet quite satisfied. We had hoped for a great many public improvements from these Boards. Village education and sanitation are the most necessary parts of the duties of these Boards, and yet in both these respects the Boards are practically not able to do anything. Malaria and cholera are ruining the country. The outbreak of a plague epidemic in the metropolis creates a great stir, but is mortality from cholera at all less fearful than that from the plague? And the principal source of mortality in this country is neither cholera nor the plague, but malaria. The improvement of sanitation should be the primary outlook of these Boards.

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

74. Referring to the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu's interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council about the Maniknagar Ghat, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April writes as follows:—

The Maniknagar Ghat question.

In reply to Bhupendra Babu's question whether Government would be plased to put on the table "the opinion of the legal advisers to the Government in the matter," the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres said:—"The legal opinion referred to was given on an unofficial reference and forms part of a succession of office notes. It is not usual to lay such papers on the table, and the Lieutenant-Governor has no reason to depart from the usual procedure in the present case." But why should there have been "an unofficial reference" in the question of transference of a public ghat? Again, in reply to Bhupendra Babu's question whether it is not the fact that "the people of Bhadreswar and its neighbourhood attached special importance to the Maniknagar Ghat Road, which leads to an ancient ghat held in great sanctity by the people and largely used by them, specially on Hindu bathing days and on occasions of other Hindu ceremonials," the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres said that "people of Bhadreswar do not attach more importance to the Maniknagar Ghat than to the neighbouring ghats known as Paikpara Ghat and Mukdam Baksh's Ghat. . . ." So far as we know, this is not true. The Maniknagar Ghat is held by the Bhadreswar people to be of greater sanctity than the neighbouring ghats.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 19th, 1905.

75. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April publishes a complaint about the prevalence of water scarcity and malaria in village Maliat, Tandia, in Faridpur. Reference is also made to the bad state of the local roads, a matter which has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Goalundo local Board but as yet without avail.

The wants of a village in Faridpur.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

HINDU RANJIKA, March 29th, 1905.

76. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 29th March writes:—

A complaint.

The Railway Company has a bridge over the Atrai stream which is now built at such a level as to permit of boats laden with large cargoes passing under it even during the rains when the river is swollen. But we understand that it is now proposed to rebuild this bridge three feet lower than its existing level. The District Magistrate is said to have consented to this alteration, but the District Board are yet ignorant of it. In our opinion this change should not be permitted,

as it would interfere with the passage of large boats under the bridge in the rains, and thereby affect injuriously the internal river-borne traffic of this part of the country.

77. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 8th April complains that on the 1st April last, the train due at Chinsura at 3-25 P.M. was delayed by a full hour in arriving at that station.

HOWRAH HITAISHI, April 8th, 1905.

A railway complaint.

78. The same paper reports that on the 1st April last, while the 2-30 Bauria local train on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was passing from Ramrajatola station to Andul station, two Uriyas were seen crossing the line. The driver on the train gave a warning whistle and immediately drew up, but not before one of the Uriyas had got badly cut up. His companion, who escaped unhurt, bore witness that a whistle had been sounded as warning. Perhaps the accident might have been avoided if the whistle had been given a little earlier. The case demands a careful inquiry by the proper authorities.

HOWRAH HITAISHI.

An accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

79. Kirti Chandra Ray writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April says that he was a passenger by the No. 7 up train East Indian Railway on the night of the 17th March last for Durgapur. He carried a good deal of luggage, and himself was travelling intermediate class, while he had two servants travelling third class. His own ticket was numbered 0003 and those of his servants 366 and 367, respectively. His luggage was duly weighed at the Howrah station and found to be 1 maund 10 seers, so that the authority there did not charge anything extra from him for its carriage. But when he alighted at Durgapur, a railway employé of the name of Coke compelled him, in spite of all remostrances, to pay a rupee and twelve annas down. The matter was duly brought to the notice of the District Traffic Superintendent at Howrah, who replied that the Superintendent at Asansol has been asked to enquire into the matter. But since then nothing more has been heard. Will no redress be obtained except through the Courts?

DAILY HITAVADI. April 9th, 1905.

A railway complaint.

80. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th April says that great inconvenience has resulted from the up train No. 5 not touching at the Kalipahari station. A petition has been submitted to the Agent of the East Indian Railway, praying that the Howrah-Kasi up passenger train No. 11 may stop at Kalipahari. It is hoped that the prayer will be granted.

SANJIVANI, April 13th, 1905.

A petition to the Agent, East Indian Railway.

81. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that the rates of freight on coal on the Indian railways should be reduced and branch lines should be carried to coal centres.

SAMAY, April 14th, 1905.

The coal industry in India.

82. Referring to the case in which two European railway servants attached to the Kharagpur station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway are said to have recently committed oppression on a respectable Indian woman, the *Pratikar* [Barhampore] of the 14th April remarks that such cases are not infrequent at Khargpur. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

PRATIKAR, April 14th, 1905.

A case of outrage on a female at the Kharagpur station.

83. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 15th April says that on the 8th idem the up-train on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway was detained at the Kadamtala station because the Guard of the train was engaged in diverting himself during the time. Derailment, obstruction, over-crowding, riots, etc., are matters of daily occurrence on the line. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

HOWRAH HITAISHI, April 15th, 1905.

The Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

84. A correspondent writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April:—

DAILY HITAVADI, April 16th, 1905.

A railway complaint.

A number of packages of goods were recently dispatched from Mirzapur to Bankura to the address of one Prasanna Kumar Karmakar. When taking delivery of the consignment, Prasanna Kumar's agent found that it weighed twenty-six seers less than what it should have weighed in his opinion. The Goods Clerk explained that he was making over the weight of goods he had actually received, and that he had already informed

his superiors by wire of the discrepancy between the weight he had actually received and the weight as stated in the chalan sent to him. Prasonna Babu claimed damages, but the following letter (No. C. 31—2062-6) from the Goods Superintendent was all that he could get:—

I beg to inform you that the consignment in question has been delivered to you under a clear receipt and I regret therefore that your claim for compensation in this case cannot be entertained.

DACCA GAZETTE, April 17th, 1905.

The importance of a railway line between Dacca and Goalundo.

85. A correspondent of the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 17th April draws the attention of His Excellency, Lord Curzon, to the importance of a railway line connecting Goalundo with Dacca. The distance between the places is only 45 miles. If this line, as well as another from Sripur to Bhairab Bazar are constructed, it will be very convenient to send troops to Assam, should any necessity arise for it. The inconvenience experienced by the public as well as by Government officials for want of this railway line beggars all description. By constructing this line, Government would make a profit of about Rs. 30 lakhs annually, which it foolishly surrenders to the Steamer Companies. The expenses of the construction of the line would be about Rs. 40 lakhs. But the annual receipts of the goods traffic would not be less than Rs. 25 lakhs, and of third class passenger traffic alone over Rs. 4 lakhs. There are besides these other receipts. If this railway line be connected with the Assam-Bengal Railway, the income would be increased by about Rs. 2 lakhs more. Calculation shows that by deducting the expenses for maintenance of the line, a clear profit of about Rs. 35 lakhs would be derived. It is inexplicable why Government is so oblivious of its own interests as to forego such a profit for such an insignificant outlay. Lord Curzon held out hopes of improvement of the Dacca town by making it the capital of the proposed new province. But if Dacca and Calcutta are not connected by railway, those hopes will have no chance of being realised.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, March 13th, 1905.

The excavation of a *khal* in the Faridpur district.

86. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th March says that the excavation of the Bulrui *khal* near Fatehpur in the Faridpur district by Government has principally benefited European merchants by enabling them to export jute from the mufassal. Government has no money to grant the promised increment of pay to the *amla* of the Magistrate and Collector, as the reply given by Government to the Hon'ble Ambika Charan Mazumdar's question in the Council shows; but the construction of water-ways for the convenience of European merchants goes on apace. The excavation of the *khal* has greatly injured the agricultural population and has also done other mischiefs. No paddy could be grown in the Chanda *bil* and the Baghia *bil* during the last two years on account of the water in these not finding an outlet. Surely this is not justice to the people.

HITAVADI. April 14th, 1905.

An irrigation complaint.

87. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that this year the authorities of the Eden Canal have not supplied water to distributary No. II in the Burdwan district. Great loss has consequently been caused to the water-rate-payers of the neighbouring villages for want of irrigation water. If any cultivator fails to pay his water-rate, his property is sold for the default. Why should not the Canal authorities be therefore held responsible for the loss suffered by him for not receiving irrigation water for his fields in spite of there being water in the canal?

DAILY HITAVADI, April 19th, 1905.

A complaint.

88. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes:—

A canal is in course of construction through the Shahapur pargana of the zamindari of the Olpur Babus in Faridpur. The mouth of this canal has been kept blocked up for three or four years now in view of the re-excavation of that part of its course which lies between Tentulia and the Haridaspur stream. This part of the canal was the only means of local communication. Its blocking up has obstructed the local drainage and the rain water has submerged the fields and cultivation is at a standstill. Besides this portion, there are some side channels which also have been blocked up. The outcome of all this has been a total obstruction of the local drainage and consequent cropping up of a few cases of cholera.

Further, the coolies employed on these works have imported a few cases of the plague, and it is urgently necessary, if the disease is not to spread among the ordinary population, that steps should be at once taken to keep these coolies at a distance from the villages.

(h)—General.

89. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th April, writing from Hatkaira, Ghatail, complains that the recent change in the local postal arrangements, whereby this village has been transferred from the jurisdiction of a peon of the Nagarbari post office to that of a peon of the new Palima experimental post office, involves the delay of an additional day in the delivery of letters, parcels, etc.

A postal complaint.

Charu Mihir, April 4th, 1905.

90. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 12th April says that the Saidabad post office in the Murshidabad district should be removed a little south from its present situation. There should also be made an arrangement for window delivery in the office.

The Saidabad post office.

Murshidabad Hitaishi, April 12th, 1905.

91. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that since the use of the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway for the carrying of the mails from Satkhira in the Khulna district to Calcutta, that mail is being greatly delayed.

A postal complaint.

Samay, April 14th, 1905.

92. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April complains of the want of a proper arrangement for the service of peons in the Rasorha post office in the Murshidabad district.

A postal complaint.

Bangavasi, April 15th, 1905.

93. A correspondent from Deorikalan in Sagar, Central Provinces, writing to the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th April, draws the attention of the higher postal authorities to the fact that inconvenience is felt by the local public in transacting business with the branch postmaster who possesses a harsh temper.

A postal complaint.

Bharat Mitra, April 15th, 190

94. A correspondent of the *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 15th April draws attention to the necessity of a post office in the village of Sri-ula, Asasoni, in the Satkhira sub-division of Khulna.

Wanted a new post office.

Khulnavasi, April 15th, 1905.

95. The same paper writes:—

A postal complaint.

Khulnavasi.

The pen-marking of postage stamps has been prohibited since the 1st April last, and copies of last week's issue of this paper were despatched as usual by post to the respective addressees. But three of these—those, namely, which were directed to the Editors of the *Nabya Bharat*, the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and the *Howrah Hitaishi*—have been sent back to us, as not having been stamped. Of course, it is possible that by mistake they were not actually stamped, but we suspect that it is more likely that the stamps, being unmarked, were removed in course of transit. We request an inquiry by the local postal authorities.

96. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 15th April suggests the desirability of raising the maximum weight which may now be carried for two pice per "book post" from the existing rate of ten tolas to fifteen tolas.

A suggested postal concession.

Basumati, April 15th, 1905.

97. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 19th March says that for some time past the delivery of letters on Sundays has been stopped in the Kalikatcha village under the Sarail post office in the Tippera district, causing great inconvenience and loss to the villagers. The Sunday delivery should be resumed, or a post office established in the village.

A postal complaint.

Pratinidhi, March 19th, 1905.

98. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that a bogus *kaviraj* (native physician) has appeared in No. 2, Dan's Lane, Baneatola, Calcutta, under the name of Dasarathi Kaviratna. The man was at first a dealer in pictures in Canning Street, then he established a stationery shop at the same place. Afterwards he procured the title Kaviratna from a man named Apurva Krishna Gupta Vidyanidhi and turned out a *kaviraj* Unwary people run great risks in the hands of such illiterate and conscience-proof bogus *kavirajs*.

A bogus *kaviraj* in Calcutta.

Nava Yug, April 8th, 1905.

DACCA GAZETTE, April 10th, 1905.

99. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 10th April publishes the following in English:—

The salt tax.

But it must, however, be admitted that there is one extenuating circumstance in connection with the salt tax. People may use, as they usually do in many places, country salt, and thus be exempted from the payment of this indirect tax; or if they use Liverpool salt at all, they may regulate its consumption, if they are so disposed to do. But there are taxes which the people literally groan under. The rent levied by Government on khas mahal lands and the land revenue assessed on estates not permanently settled are some of these taxes. These two taxes have of late become all the more burdensome because of the failure of crops from year to year. We are, of course, thankful to Government for making wholesale or partial remissions of these taxes here and there on special occasions necessitating the same. These remissions, opportune as they are, do the people a world of good no doubt. But our *ma bap* Government would be doing some material good to the people if some permanent substantial concessions were made with regard to these taxes. Will His Excellency the Viceroy condescend to do something in this direction?

DAILY HITAVADI, April 18th, 1905.

100. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th April writes:—

The salt duty.

It is a fact admitted by all scientific doctors that inability to afford the use of a sufficient quantity of salt is responsible for producing a good many epidemics amongst the Indians. So there can be no question that the salt duty ought to be temporarily abolished entirely, when the country is in the grip of either the plague, or malaria, or cholera.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, March 18th, 1905.

101. Even the juice of the date-tree, writes the *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th March, like the juice of the palm-tree and some other similar articles, has been made an exciseable article by Government. Under the English Government nothing has escaped taxation, whether it be the timber from the forest, the fish from the water, or any other trivial thing.

The juice of the date-tree made an exciseable article by Government.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, April 13th, 1905.

102. Referring to the quarrel between Mr. Carey and Babu Peary Mohan Roy, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th April says that, considering the manner in which Mr. Carey is getting indulgence from the Government, it is no wonder that he should become more and more oppressive and become a dread to the public.

Mr. Carey.

HITAVADI, April 14th, 1905.

103. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that once when he was Subdivisional Officer of Sirajganj in the Pabna district, Mr. Carey took it into his head to ride through a field of standing crop belonging to a man named Anu Pramanik. Anu was obliged to make a show of using force in order to get him out of the field. For this Anu was prosecuted and sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment by a Deputy Magistrate, but was acquitted in the District Judge's Court on appeal. On another occasion Mr. Carey dismissed a chaukidar named Devi Singh of the Khalta village for having refused to obey his orderly's order to go in search of a horse which had run away. Mr. Nolan, the then Commissioner of the Division, re-appointed the chaukidar on appeal and compelled Mr. Carey to pay him his salary for the period of dismissal. What wonder that such an officer, when raised to the post of a District Magistrate, should become more oppressive?

Mr. Carey as a Subdivisional Officer.

HITAVARTA, April 16th, 1905.

104. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 16th April asks, why is the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal so favourably disposed towards Mr. Carey, the Magistrate and Collector of Hooghly? While at Berhampur he committed many acts of oppression. The readers are already aware of the pranks he is playing at Hooghly. Our correspondents have supplied us with a detailed account of his high-handed doings at Serajganj * * * * The Lieutenant-Governor ought to teach him a good lesson.

Mr. Carey.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, April 17th, 1905.

105. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th April writes:—

An allegation against Mr. Carey.

Garalgacha is a village in the Hooghly district where dacoities have been rife for a number of years past. This year, therefore, the report of one case of dacoity having

already occurred, was sufficient to put the villagers on their guard. Those of the villagers who happened to possess arms began to parade the village at night regularly. But Mr. Carey, the Magistrate of Hooghly, having received information of this fact, has now issued a notice calling upon them to show cause why they should not be deprived of their arms.

106. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 13th March writes:— FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, March 13th, 1905.

Proposed head-quarters of the Gopalganj subdivision in Mymensingh.

The place which has been fixed upon for the head-quarters of the Gopalganj subdivision has the disadvantage of being situated at far too great a distance from a place like Jainagar to the north of the Kasiani jurisdiction. Further, the stream which flows by this place has almost dried up. There is no good source of local water-supply available here. And, lastly, cholera is rife at this place in certain portions of the year.

107. The same paper writes:— FARIDPUR HITAISHINI.

A complaint.

Mukshudpur was the seat of a Munsifi about 35 years ago, which, later on, was removed to Bhanga. This change effected no great saving of expense to Government, but it has proved a source of inconvenience to the villagers of Kasiani and Bhitimalita.

108. The same paper writes:— FARIDPUR HITAISHINI

The policy of the British Government.

Ganja is cultivated in the Naogaon subdivision of Rajshahi, and Government makes a profit of about Rs. 2,000 per bigha by the sale of this *ganja*. Similarly, opium is cultivated in Patna, Gaya and other districts and this also brings in at least Rs. 5,000 per bigha to the Government. But the zamindar and the cultivator do not get anything more than seven or eight or nine or ten rupees out of the same bigha. The zamindar is the proprietor of the soil while the cultivator gives his labour; but when it is a question of profits, it is the Government which comes in for the lion's share. This is the law which the British Raj has been teaching to the entire body of its fellow-countrymen in India. It is looking after their interests by framing a law like the Assam Coolie Law. What regard is paid to the interests of the subjects in this country?

Again, take the case of countries like Rajputana, with their salt works, where for each maund of salt raised, the labourer gets wages at the rate of two annas, where the Government makes Rs. 4.

Famines often break out in these countries when subscription lists are opened for relief. Famines are of rare occurrence in China or in Japan.

109. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April writes:— DAILY HITAVADI, April 15th, 1905.

Lord Curzon's Indian administration.

The thing is that the list of his achievements which Lord Curzon gave in the course of the last budget debate may prove His Excellency's industry, but that does not touch the truth of the fact that most of these achievements are inimical to the interests of the subject people. His reforms instead of widening have only norrowed the paths of advancemeмt open to the Indian. Possessing immense powers he has used them to further measures which were to his own liking—there is nothing creditable or praiseworthy in this. He has expressed his regret that the Indian public are accustomed to protest against and to scent danger in every one of his measures. It is our misfortune that we can do nothing to help him in the matter of this complaint. Rather we must confess to a feeling of sorrow and alarm at this eagerness he has displayed to claim credit. We should consider it fortunate if instead of this display of energy and activity he were to spend some time in idleness.

110. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 15th April says that the Tibet Mission, the Persian Mission and the conduct of the Viceroy towards the Maharajas of Nagodh and Tippera show that the last Bengali year was marked, though indirectly, by the policy of territorial extension on the part of the Government of India. HOWRAHHITAISHI, April 15th, 1905.

The policy of territorial extension.

111. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 16th April writes:— DACCA PRAKASH, April 16th, 1905.

The Government's attitude towards the Press.

For some years past we have noticed that the attitude of indifference on the part of the ruling authorities towards the Press is steadily increasing.

As in former years, so in the past year, we tried to bring to the notice of the authorities numerous grievances, but ineffectually. It is not that in one or two instances we did not get redress on the lines we asked for, but these cases were so few as not to touch the truth of the general statement just made. Such is the decree of our fate that the cries of distress of the aggrieved subjects might rend the skies, but they prove ineffectual to move the hard hearts of our rulers. A spectacle like this is really amazing in the history of a civilised race.

HINDI BANGAVASI, April 17th, 1905.

Lord Curzon's budget speech.

112. The sum and substance of Lord Curzon's budget speech, says the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April, was to insinuate that since His Excellency's arrival in India he had been trying to make the people happy and prosperous, but he did not stop to reflect for a moment the consequences of some of his measures, such as the Universities Act, the Official Secrets Act, and the like. The charm of his speech must have captivated many minds, but does this kind of speech-making form a part of political science?

DAILY HITAVADI, April 19th, 1905.

The Government of India and the late Calcutta Town Hall protest meeting.

113. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes:—

The Government of India has refused to transmit to the Secretary of State the resolutions against Lord Curzon's general policy and Convocation speech adopted at the late Calcutta Town Hall meeting. No reasons have been assigned for this refusal. But we have not been surprised at it any the more. In spite of the Government of India's refusal, copies of these resolutions are already in the hands of the Secretary of State and other prominent men in England, so the object of that meeting has been gained. Many of the great English newspapers have already criticised Lord Curzon's convocation speech. The majority of them have condemned it and some have even gone the length of cutting jokes at His Excellency's expense. Will the refusal to transmit the resolutions at this stage silence these criticisms or bring about any change in the opinion of the English public? Why did the Indian Government knowingly betray this narrowness?

HITAVADI, April 14th, 1905.

An increase of educational expenditure recommended.

114. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April fully concurs in the opinion of the *Pioneer* that Government ought to have made arrangements to increase its expenditure on education by curtailing the expenditure in the Police Department.

PRASUN, April 14th, 1905.

A complaint.

115. The *Prasun* [Katwa] of the 14th April writes:—

Rupees bearing date 1835 and 1840 are no longer being accepted at the Government post offices and other Government offices. Nobody knows if any official notice has been previously given to this effect, but at any rate it is causing great inconvenience to the public here.

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

Wanted a Sub-Registry office in the Hooghly district.

116. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April complains of the want of a Sub-Registry office at Pursurha in the Hooghly district. The Arambag Sub-Registry office, within the jurisdiction of which the village is at present situated, is 12 miles distant from it.

BHARAT MITRA, April 15th, 1905.

Lord Curzon and the Rolt case.

117. Referring to the contrast between the Rolt and the Tilak case, as drawn by another paper, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th April calls attention to that portion of Lord Curzon's budget speech in which His Lordship is reported to have said that his heart begins to break when he sees the Indians charging him with partiality towards Europeans at the cost of the natives, and observes:—'How does His Excellency feel when he thinks of the way in which the above two cases have been decided?'

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

The Rolt case.

118. Referring to the Rolt case, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says:—

If the zamindar has to pay the compensation money, it will create a panic in the public mind, because the zamindar is not to blame for anything in the matter. People will not in that case dare to make complaints even if they are true, because it often happens that true complaints are not proved. If Government gives the compensation money, it will have to give compensation in every such case that will not be proved, because

there can be no distinction between white men and black men in the eyes of an impartial Government.

The proposal to increase the European army in India.

119. Referring to the proposal to increase the European army in India, the same paper exclaims, "Save us, O mighty goddess, Jagadamba."

RANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

Complaints against the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj in Assam.

120. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 16th April has heard of many complaints against Mr. Craven, the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj in Sylhet. Perhaps he is one of those Eurasians who were appointed in Assam at the instance of Lord Curzon. It is heard that he is a member of the Imperial Anglo-Indian Association and a Deputy Magistrate, and for this reason he sees no difference between a gentleman and a menial. Some time ago Mr. Craven appointed two respectable zamindars as special constables to preserve the peace. One of them obtained his exemption from the police parade by dancing attendance on him. The other failed to obtain the same * * * * * * Mr. Cotton, who knew fully well that the appointment of white deputies in Assam would bring discredit on the officials, was opposed to the proposal of Lord Curzon. That he was right is now proved by Mr. Craven's conduct. Will the higher authorities look into the matter?

HITAVARTA, April 16th, 1905.

The cause of Indian poverty.

121. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April writes:—

During the latter part of the nineteenth century famine broke out in India eighteen times, carrying away two crores and sixty lakhs of people. It is, moreover, well known that ordinarily ten crores of people cannot afford to get two meals a day. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that the people should die by thousands when, owing to certain natural causes, there occurs a failure of the crops. Want of money comes first, and then starvation, disease and death follow in quick succession.

The question is, what is the cause of these misfortunes? The country is fruitful, produces abundant crops and is full of mineral wealth. Why then should these miseries come upon the people who work very hard from sunrise to sunset for bare subsistence? The reply to this question will be found in the conflicting interests of the rulers and the ruled leading to poverty of the masses. If the interests of the Sovereign and his subjects had been identical, if moreover the administration of the country had been carried on solely for the benefit of India, then the Indians would never have been reduced to this plight. Government only looks to the interests of the English merchants who have no sympathies beyond their own class and studies how best to secure their gains. The vast Indian Empire has been converted into a mart for British merchants, and the worthless sons of England have to be maintained in India on high salaries. It is for this that the children of the soil have been reduced to this astounding poverty. When it is remembered that India has to find the means of comfort and luxury, not of the Emperor and his dependants, which would be a small matter, but of the whole of the English race, it can be easily understood why she should find herself in her last gasp, why her arts and industries should be destroyed and why her sons should be deprived of all political rights. The English have made India a sort of money-making machine, and it is this single fact which will explain the abject condition of the Indian people—a condition without a parallel in the annals of the world. Lord Curzon has himself said that the average annual income of the people per head in India is Rs. 30. But even in Russia, which is a despotically governed country, the average annual income per head is Rs. 330. What a vast difference!

It cannot be denied that British rule has conferred many blessings upon India. But every fair-minded man, having knowledge of the country, will admit that almost all the acts of improvement that have been done by Englishmen in India are meant more for the furtherance of the British commercial interest than of the interest of the country and its people. No nation in the world had ever been reduced to such straits by having to supply the means of luxury and enjoyment of the conquering race. What other people in the world have been thrown upon the resources of the land alone for their subsistence? Is there any other nation, except the Indians, 85 per cent. of whom are agriculturists? And how little attention does Government pay even to this agriculture!

DAILY HITAVADI, April 16th, 1905.

It is for the interests of the English merchants that the Government of India is now paying some attention to this matter.

HINDI BANGAVASI, April 17th, 1905.

The Madan Mohan temple of Agra.

122. A correspondent of the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April requests the higher authorities to call on the present *pujari* of the temple of Madan Mohan at Agra, to account for his neglect in conducting the worship of the idol, having become an Aryasamaji, and also to explain his act in dismantling the temple with a view to sell its materials.

SANDHYA, April 18th, 1905.

The proposed jute legislation.

123. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 18th April says that the proposed jute legislation had its origin in the outcry raised by certain European jute merchants of Narainganj. Though the proposal has been happily shelved, yet the agitation over the question shows how powerful the British merchant is. Eminent Indian administrators like Lord Ripon and Sir Henry Cotton had to go down before the interests of the English merchants.

DAILY HITAVADI, April 19th, 1905.

Lord Curzon's refusal to open a relief fund in England for the earthquake sufferers.

124. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes:—

We fail to understand why, in this day of India's distress, Lord Curzon declares himself against collecting subscriptions from England. It is true that Government has promised to remit the land-revenue for a year in the case of those persons whose relations and agricultural property have suffered from the earthquake. But is this concession sufficient to relieve all their woes? The public will say that His Excellency's hesitation to ask for relief from England is only natural, considering the way in which he has filled the skies with loud talk about the increasing prosperity and happiness of the inhabitants of this country. In the opinion of Government the loss caused by this earthquake is not sufficient to justify the opening of a relief fund in England. But what reason has Government to consider the loss not sufficiently serious when in the two districts of Palampur and Kangra alone the dead number 13,000?

SANDHYA, April 19th, 1904.

The mining prosperity of India.

125. Referring to the increasing mineral produce of India, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 19th April says that unless Government makes arrangements for applying Indian capital to the mining works, India will not gain anything by their prosperity.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BIHAR BANDHU, April 15th, 1905.

Affairs in the Supreme Council.

126. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 15th April says that Mr. Gokhale's interpellations and the criticisms upon the Viceroy's Convocation speech were replied to with due moderation in the Supreme Legislative Council. This might have a soothing effect on the minds of the critics, but what is the actual result of all this fuss except mere exchange of words?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI, April 15th, 1905.

Remission of land revenue in times of severe scarcity.

127. Referring to the Government Resolution about remission of land revenue in times of imminent famine, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says that if half the crops fail, the cultivator will not be able to pay land revenue, whether or no there be such a Resolution. What is wanted in such times is relief to the poor in the shape of a daily meal.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR, April 4th, 1905.

The Mymensingh Provincial Conference.

128. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th April writes:—

The glorious image of our country will be consecrated at Mymensingh town at an auspicious hour on the 22nd April next. Let everybody attend on that occasion at the sacred *pandal* and by putting the dust of his mother-country's feet on his forehead sanctify his life.

See, Bengal has nowadays fallen on evil times indeed. Lord Curzon wishes to split up the Bengali race. Government does not wish that seven crores of

Bengalis will with one voice call the soil of Bengal their mother country. This Provincial Conference at Mymensingh is perhaps the last occasion when all the seven crores of Bengalis will meet on common ground. Such an occasion will not recur when Bengal is partitioned.

129. The same paper writes:—

CHARU MIHIR, April 4th, 1905.

The Mymensingh Provincial Conference.

In spite of all that Lord Curzon may say to the contrary, there is no opposition of interests between the educated classes and the uneducated masses in this country. The educated community regard with the same eye the interests alike of the zamindar and the raiyat. The interests of all classes of the population are equally bound up with the subjects which are discussed at the National Congress and the Provincial Conferences. We fail to understand with what intent Government is desirous of drawing a line of cleavage between the different classes of society in India. A short while ago, an attempt was made in this way to create a division between the Musalmans and the Hindus. That attempt has happily turned out a failure. In truth, under British rule, the interests of all classes of the community in this country have become one and indivisible.

The meetings which are now being held in different parts of Mymensingh in connection with the impending session of the Bengal Provincial Conference in that district will afford Government an indication of the feelings with which the masses regard institutions like these. We regard this as a happy sign of the times and we rejoice at it. We consider it a glory of the British Raj that under its sway all classes of the country are awakening to a national life. Government need not apprehend any dangers from this sudden awakening of the masses. The natives of India appreciate the benefits of British rule, and, far from being inimical to its continued existence, they wish for it with all their hearts.

130. In connexion with the ensuing session of the Bengal Provincial Conference at Mymensingh, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th April writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI, April 10th, 1904.

The Mymensingh Provincial Conference.

In villages like Kisorganj, Lakhuhati, etc., even the cultivators are bestirring themselves in collecting subscriptions from among members of their own community of half a pice, a pice and so on. Facts like these will convince our rulers that once they can be made to feel the necessity of their doing so, even the poorest peasants of the country will co-operate with the educated classes in movements of public usefulness.

131. The *Charumihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th April writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR, April 11th, 1905.

"The awakening of the Bengal peasantry."

A reproach has hitherto attached to our Congresses and Conferences that the people at large held aloof from them. That reproach will soon be removed. The promoters of the Bengal Provincial Conference to be held at Mymensingh have succeeded in attracting the attention of the people. We have received reports of numerous meetings held in the mufassal. Illiterate peasants are attending these meetings and are making voluntary contributions in aid of the Conference. They have shewn with what alarm they view the proposed jute legislation. Lord Curzon characterised the partition agitation as a got-up affair. But this insinuation has not at all damped the ardour of the people and they have not yet given up their protest. On the other hand, the proposal of breaking up the Bengali language, the oppressions of the chaukidari-tax and the proposed railway cess have thoroughly awakened them. The intensity of their feelings will be amply evidenced in the Mymensingh Conference.

Thus it is that the unexpected has at last come to pass: the people of Mymensingh are awakened from their slumbers. What the education imparted in *pathsalas* and schools failed to do, the proposal of partitioning Bengal has accomplished. This is a new feature of this year's Provincial Conference which will not be merely a platform for the educated to speak on. A new chapter in the discussion of political affairs will open at the forthcoming Mymensingh Conference, which is now backed by the irresistible force of public opinion. All classes, from the wealthy zamindar to the poorest peasant, including the merchants, stand shoulder to shoulder in furthering the cause of the Conference.

CHARU MIHIR. April 11th, 1905.

132. The same paper publishes brief accounts of the proceedings of meetings held at different places to elect delegates to, and to express sympathy with, the objects of the coming Provincial Conference.

The Mymensingh Conference.

CHARU MIHIR, April 16th, 1905.

133. The *Charumihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th April writes:—

Political agitation by the masses in India.

In this district the zamindar and the tenant, the educated and the illiterate, the rich and the poor have all forgotten their differences in the face of the approaching session of the Provincial Conference at Mymensingh. If the entire public of the country were in this way to make common cause, political agitation would gain an accession of unconquerable strength. Government will no longer then be able to remain indifferent to our claims. We shall never be able to win any favour from our rulers by whining before them like beggars. The English public also will certainly not remain indifferent spectators of such a display of the strength of the masses. Our only hope lies in the generosity of the race to which the world owes the abolition of the slave trade. When the masses are able to demand their just rights, the English *raj* will never be able to ignore their demands. The policy of the Indian Administration is still dependent on the views of the English public.

DACCA GAZETTE, April 10th, 1905.

134. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 10th April writes:—

Mortality during famines in India.

Thanks to the ill-luck of the people of India, a new form of death in addition to usual forms of death by disease, by war and by accident, has become very common in India under the rule of the civilised English. This is death by starvation. The Indians call it death during a famine. But a state of famine can then alone be said to exist when food becomes scarce and cannot be bought. But such a state is never witnessed in this country. At the very time that we talk of a famine prevailing in India, lakhs of maunds of wheat and the like continue to be exported from her shores to foreign lands. It thus appears that the natives of the soil, though food is available, cannot buy it for want of money. So if death occurs in such a case, it must be called a case of death by starvation brought on by poverty. Even official reports estimate the number of such deaths during the last century at the high figure of three crores and 25 lakhs.

HITAVADI, April 14th, 1905.

135. In a review of the past Bengali year, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th April remarks:—

A review of the past Bengali year.

The Japanese have not shown meanness like the English. They have not been guilty of anything like the show of pride which the English made on capturing, and afterwards maltreating, a small band of rebels in Manipur. The Japanese have not, like Clive, occupied any country by means of a false treaty. No one can therefore lose his respect for Japan.

As for the Native States in India, the Bara Thakur of Tippera has been deprived of his prospect to the throne of that State and is now living as an exile from it. The authorities had, in a manner, called for an explanation from the Gaekwar of Baroda for appointing Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt in his State, but dropped the question on receiving a satisfactory answer.

Disputes between white men and natives were not fewer than usual. The number of cases of rupture of the spleen was small, but cases of shooting accidents made up this deficiency. Miscarriage of justice was as remarkable as ever.

BHARAT MITRA, April 15th, 1905.

136. Commenting upon the Gaekwar of Baroda's speech on the appointment of a permanent Viceroy for India from among the Royal family, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th April says that some Indian Viceroys try

The Gaekwar of Baroda's speech on the Indian Viceroy.

head and heart to retard the progress made in the time of their predecessors. Lord Curzon would do his best to create a difference between the Indians and Englishmen. This is why we say this country had better been placed under a single ruler, for he would then have sympathy for the people and try to stop the growing poverty in the country.

137. Learning that Japan has extended its helping hand to those Indians who have suffered from the last earthquake, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th April observes that Japan's offer of help at a time when she herself is involved in a war, displays the special trait in her national character.

Japan's contribution to the relief of the Indian sufferers from the last earthquake.

BHARAT MITRA. April 15th, 1905.

URIYA PAPERS.

138. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th April states that there were a few showers of rain in the Balasore town in the last week.

The weather in Balasore town.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, April 5th, 1905.

139. The same paper states that a slight shock of earth-quake was felt in the Balasore town on the 4th instant and that it lasted for about one minute. The Jajpur and Jhankar correspondents of the *Utkalādipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th April make similar statements.

Earthquake at Balasore.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

140. Referring to the delay caused in the investigation of the late Kanika Rajbati case in which some of the Cuttack Police officers were implicated, the same paper observes that such delay reflects great discredit on the investigating Police officers of that district.

The late Kanika Rajbati case.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

141. Continuing its articles on the grievances of the domiciled Bengalis, the same paper proposes to carry on a sustained agitation in its columns and thereby force it on the attention of the authorities concerned.

Grievances of the domiciled Bengalis in Orissa.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

142. Remembering the accidental death of the Raja of Aul, the same paper advises the Raja of Kanika, his younger brother, to give up his proposed journey to Japan in the company of Mr. Das, Miss Das and some young men of Orissa, as the time is an inauspicious one.

Proposed visit of the Raja of Kanika to Japan.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

143. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that the appointment of Babu Khirode Chandra Rai Chaudhury to the Dewanship of Parla Khimidi is an example of injustice generally done to the Uriyas and the Bengalis domiciled in Orissa, for Babu Khirode Chandra is neither an Uriya nor a domiciled Bengali.

Babu Khirode Chandra Rai Chaudhury as the Dewan of Parla Khimidi.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

144. The same paper notices with pleasure the subscription that has been raised in Orissa with the object of enabling Mahes Chandra Rai to proceed to Japan to learn some branch of technical education in that country.

The industrial education movement.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

145. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th April says that the residents of Balasore are sorry to part with the services of Babu Baidya Nath Misra, a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on transfer to Angul, as he endeared himself to them by his tact and good judgment.

Babu Baidya Nath Misra, Deputy Magistrate, Balasore.

SAMVAD VAHIKA, April 6th, 1905.

146. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th April states that clouds were visible now and then in the Cuttack town in the last week. Cold has abated and the temperature is rising.

The weather at Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA, April 8th, 1905.

147. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper says that on account of the prevalence of plague in Jajpur, an additional doctor has been deputed to that place to attend to the sufferers from that disease.

The plague in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA.

148. The same correspondent is glad to find that though a large number of men and women proceeded to Jajpur to have a bath in the Baitarani on the Baruni *Ganga Snan* day, the local Municipality discharged its duties in such a satisfactory manner as to render any hitch or hindrance wellnigh impossible.

Baruni *Ganga Snan* day at Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Chaukidars.

149. The Jhankar correspondent of the same paper says that though the neglect of duty on the part of the village chaukidars was repeatedly brought to the notice of the authorities, the chaukidars as a class have shewn very little improvement, and that unless the local authorities make them more dutiful the number of thefts in the rural area must increase.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Rumoured human sacrifices in Cuttack.

150. The same paper is sorry to notice that a strange and wild rumour is current to the effect that human sacrifices are being offered at a place in the new Circuit House in the compound of the Barbati Fort in Cuttack where it has been found necessary to close up a bottomless pit by a large quantity of human blood. This rumour had its origin in the direction of the contractor to his coolies to do a full day's work without attending to men and women, who resorted to the Dargha or altar of the Bokhari Saheb, situated very near the place. The rumour was filtered as it passed from tongue to tongue and at last so permeated the mass that a *mela* or fair held in honour of the Kanak Durga at Jagatsingpur was suddenly dispersed on the circulation of the false news that men and women were being caught for the purpose of being offered as sacrifices in the bottomless pit. The nervousness and superstition of the ordinary folk have become so great that residents of rural areas in the district do not come to the town in numbers, and its effect on trade, industry and labour in the urban area is palpable. The writer is of opinion that the educated classes in the country are, to a certain extent, responsible for this state of things, as they have failed to remove deep ignorance and gross superstition from the minds of those who form the backbone of the Indian community.

STAR OF UTKAL, April 8th, 1905.

Government and the Native States of Orissa.

151. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 8th April is not satisfied with the policy of Government with regard to Native States in Orissa, and regrets that Government has allowed many estates to fall into the hands of absentee landlords and speculative Lahukars without making any serious attempt to protect them from extravagance and mismanagement.

BIDHUBHUSHAN MUKERJEA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 22nd April 1905.

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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 22nd April 1905.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

518. The *Bengalee* refuses to believe that Russia has any intention of invading India. The war is not yet over, and what the state of Russia will be when it is over, no man can pretend to foresee at the present moment. That Power would rather need to strengthen her garrisons in Central Asia in order to prevent insurrectionary movements among the people.

Revival of the Russian nightmare.

Bengalee, 9th April 1905.

This scare, however, may well be utilised by the Jingo Press as a lever to justify the increased military expenditure in India, and it is probably with that object alone that the scare has been revived.

519. Referring to Mr. J. M. Robertson's lecture at the New Reform Club in London on British rule in India, the *Bengalee* remarks that Mr. Robertson has sounded the note of warning not a day too soon, that a policy of repression towards the people of India, which cannot fail to increase disaffection and discontent, might drive them to preferring Japanese to British rule. "It were idle to disguise the fact," says the journal, "that the people of India look upon Japan in a light very different from that in which they have so long been accustomed to regard Russia. The sooner the truth is realised by our British rulers the better for both Great Britain and India."

A warning.

Indian Mirror, 13th April 1905.

520. Commenting on the effect produced on Europe by Russia's defeats at the hands of the Japanese, the *Bengalee* states that the European nations are afraid this may not be the last time that Europe will go down before Asia. A combination of the yellow races and the subsequent expulsion of Europe from Asia is what they apprehend. The journal refers to the frankness of Mr. Arnold White, who candidly states that the present success of Japan is not so important a matter as her influence on the future of the world. He pronounces Indian soldiers superior in many respects to European troops, and points out that the sepoy, who has been equally loyal to French, Dutch, and English, will not object if English salt is replaced by some other. The policy of ignoring Indian public opinion is foolish and dangerous, and England must recognise the change in the relations between Asia and Europe after the battle of Mukden.

The new Power in the East.

Bengalee, 15th April 1905.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

521. Mr. Tahl Ram Gangaram writes in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that he is doubtful about the legality of the Magistrate's order prohibiting him from preaching in College Square, and that very shortly he intends moving the High Court in the matter. Meanwhile, he continues preaching every evening at Beadon Square, to which place he invites the public.

Mr. Tahl Ram Gangaram.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 10th April 1905.

522. Criticising the remark in the Home Department Resolution on the Report of the Police Commission, that the giving and taking of money is still traditional among the Indian people, the *Bengalee* asks: Is it less traditional among the Western people? What about 'tips,' commissions, and the innumerable other forms of bribery and corruption which so universally prevail in European countries? What about the Commissariat and Remount scandals in South Africa and Manchuria and the sale of decorations by a former President of the French Republic?

Is corruption traditional among the Indian people?

Bengalee, 12th April 1905.

523. Reverting to this matter, the same paper asks if there is any reasonable prospect of improvement in the police if the Government go out of their way to invent pleas for the extenuation of corrupt practices. After this characteristic pronouncement by Government, the corrupt policeman might be excused if he were to consider himself a chartered libertine who is free to please himself.

Ibid.

Bengalee, 13th April 1905.

Such an attitude on the part of Government is likely to impair the efficiency of even the most elaborately devised scheme of reform.

INDIAN MIRROR, 16th April 1905.

524. A correspondent of the *Indian Mirror*, commenting on that journal's criticism of the Government Resolution on the Police Commission's Report, states that the arrangement of having two separate branches of the superior Police service, instead of being a crying evil, will be highly beneficial to the people of India. The number of Assistant Superintendents should, however, be in equal proportion to that of Deputy Superintendents, and some special concession should be made in the case of Inspectors who have distinguished themselves during a long period of service and have no chance of rising without being qualified for Provincial Services.

The Police Commission's Report.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

INDIAN NATION, 10th April 1905.

525. Commenting on the result of the enquiry into the Rolt case, the *Indian Nation* finds that the ends of justice or good administration have not been fully met, since not a word has been said about the proceedings of Mr. Lea and his subordinates, who are responsible for what Mr. Rolt has suffered. The amount paid him as compensation should not be taken from the Khagra Estate.

The Rolt case.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 10th April 1905.

526. From the fact that the Government has taken no notice of the charge made by Mr. Rolt that Messrs. Lea and Heard were actuated by malice, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* deduces that the allegation is without foundation, and that Messrs. Lea and Heard have suffered because they possessed the rare virtue of making no distinction between Europeans and Indians. This leads the *Patrika* to reflect that if these Magistrates are to be punished for doing their duty according to their light, what Magistrate after this will care to meddle with a European employé of the Government ?

Ibid.

The journal next complains that the Committee's report should not have been withheld from publication.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRAKA, 11th April 1905.

527. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reverts to the decision of the Government to compensate Mr. Rolt, and remarks that it is incomprehensible how a just Government can make its helpless wards suffer such heavy pecuniary loss in a matter in which they had no hand. If the minors, on attaining their majority, sued the Government for the recovery of the amount paid out of their estate, how would a Court of law avoid giving them a decree? The proper course would have been to permit Mr. Rolt to sue his official prosecutors for malicious prosecution and recover damages from them, but that might have led to disclosures being made to the injury of the prestige of the authorities, and at any cost this had to be prevented.

Ibid.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 12th April 1905.

528. The *Hindoo Patriot* hopes the Khagra Estate will be absolved from paying the Rs. 15,000 awarded as compensation to Mr. Rolt, and does not see why the District Magistrate should not be made to bear the entire cost. The journal hopes the Lieutenant-Governor will take adequate notice of the way in which people perjured themselves and used forged documents before the Committee.

Ibid.

From this remarkable case, the *Patriot* asks its countrymen to draw the following moral—Never employ a European or Eurasian for the management of an estate.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 13th April 1905.

529. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a letter from "Fiat Justitia" on the subject of the Rolt case, in which it is stated that the responsibility for Mr. Rolt's prosecution rests, not with Mr. Lea, but with Mr. Macpherson, the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division, and Mr. Savage, the Member of the Board of Revenue. The journal comments upon the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, who presumably sanctioned the prosecution on the report of two such high officers and, absolved Mr. Rolt from all blame and directed the payment of compensation to him on the recommendation of Mr. Hare, another Member of the Board.

Ibid.

The *Patrika* thinks that all the official papers connected with the case should now be published as well as the report of the Committee of Enquiry and the depositions of witnesses; but it maintains that the real point is

to prevent the gross injustice of saddling the Khagra Estate with the cost, which cannot under any law, human or divine, be fastened upon it.

Mr. Kingsford and Mr. Tahl Ram.

530. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. Kingsford's action in refusing to allow Mr. Tahl Ram to sit by the side of his Counsel instead of standing in the dock, will be universally denounced as unworthy of the conduct of one occupying a seat on the Judicial Bench. Unthinking Magistrates like Mr. Kingsord have no idea of the amount of mischief they do the Empire by the unnecessarily harsh use of the brief authority in which they are dressed. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 13th April 1905.

Ibid.

531. The same journal publishes the letter of a correspondent pointing out that the Chief Presidency Magistrate was not justified in ordering Mr. Tahl Ram to stand in the dock, and that the latter could have refused not only to enter the dock but to even answer the notice calling on him to show cause. Mr. Tahl Ram can sue for damages, as did the Maharaja of Mymensingh, whom the late Mr. H. A. D. Phillips similarly insulted. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th April 1904

This high-handedness results from having a civilian as Chief Presidency Magistrate, a change which gave satisfaction to no one, save perhaps to the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Mr. Bonnaud, 2nd Presidency Magistrate.

532. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses the opinion that Mr. W. Bonnaud, the retiring 2nd Presidency Magistrate, has been very shabbily treated. Latterly he was never permitted to try cases sent up by the police. The journal approves of the appointment of Mr. Swinhoe as Mr. Bonnaud's successor, but hopes the Chamber of Commerce will set on foot a movement for securing as before the appointment of a non-civilian as Chief Presidency Magistrate. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th April 1905.

(*d*)—*Education.*

"Flagrant jobbery in Assam."

533. The *Bengalee* refers to the notification in the *Assam Gazette*, appointing the Principal of a private college in Sylhet to the post of Inspector of Schools on Rs. 400 to Rs. 600. This lucky officer who was in receipt of only Rs. 150 a month, had himself lately applied for a Deputy Inspectorship on Rs. 150 to Rs. 200. By his appointment a flagrant injustice has been done to Mr. Jadu Bhusan Brahmachari, a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University, a senior Professor in the Cotton College, and a Raychand Premchand scholar, between whom and the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller's nominee there can be no comparison. The reason why Mr. Brahmachari's claims have been overlooked is ascribed to the fact that that gentleman is known as "Sir Henry Cotton's man," and view of Mr. Fuller's antipathy to his predecessor in office, makes it impossible for him to bear the idea of promoting any officer who is believed to have been in Sir Henry's good books. BENGALEE, 9th April 1905.

The Ranchi College.

534. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, criticising the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks that the subscriptions already received towards the Ranchi College scheme have been practically unsolicited, says that the reason for this is that it is the "Lord Saheb" who is interested in the movement—nay, has made the scheme the greatest ambition of his life, and the Rajas and Maharajas who have contributed to the fund are doing so simply to keep in his good books. It is gratifying, however, that District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioners have not been entrusted with the duty of raising subscriptions. The journal is convinced that, as the public are by this time perfectly conscious that His Honour wishes to leave behind a memorial in the shape of this college, there is no necessity for invoking the aid of Magistrates and the Police. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th April 1905.

Mr. Pedler's education circular.

535. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* characterises Mr. Pedler's latest circular introducing the admission register and laying down rules that parents and guardians of boys wishing to be admitted into school are to be accompanied by respectable witnesses and state the amount and source of their income, &c., as insulting and casting an unjust aspersion upon the national character and truthfulness of the people. The journal points out that the rules which have beaten all Mr. Pedler's other achievements hollow will entail AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th April 1905.

needless trouble and vexation on parents and guardians. "This piece of 'Pedlerian legislation' is the product of a little mind, the sole tendency of which is to annoy, insult and exasperate the people unnecessarily."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th April 1905.

The Daulatpur Hindu Academy.

536. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* calls the attention of those noblemen who contributed 2 lakhs of rupees towards the Ranchi College Scheme to the Daulatpur "Hindu Academy, a miniature of the proposed Ranchi College," which stands in need of support. In this Academy high-class education is imparted almost free by a band of workers who for the last three years have devoted themselves practically without any remuneration to the work of education. Such sacrifices ought to move the charitable public.

INDIAN MIRROR, 14th April 1905.

Bengal Government technical scholarships.

537. The *Indian Mirror* expresses the deep gratitude of the Indian community to Lord Curzon for what he has done in the matter of the industrial development of the country. This is the redeeming feature of His Excellency's administration, and if all his measures had been conceived in the same spirit, there is no denying that he would have left behind him a record of the most successful Viceroyalty. The journal thinks the Government has taken the right course in reserving for the present the scholarships for the encouragement of the mining industry. Technical Education will have the effect of some day or other arresting the outflow of wealth from India, while the immediate gain has been the destruction of the old prejudice against foreign travel by Hindus.

BENGALEE, 16th April 1905.

A conscience clause for India.

538. Commenting on the views expressed by Srinavasa Shastri in his article in the *Indian Review*, regarding the insertion of a "conscience clause" in the educational codes, which will bind all Government aided missionary institutions to abstain from making converts, the *Bengalee* shows that such a suggestion is open to grave objections. It considers that every lad, whether Hindu, Mussalman or Buddhist, will be a gainer by reading the Bible, and finds that notwithstanding the fact that it is daily taught in missionary schools, cases of conversion have become extremely rare.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 10th April 1905.

The water-supply of Calcutta.

539. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* characterises the notification of the Calcutta Corporation that there will be a curtailment of the supply of filtered water for the next 48 hours as pure heartlessness and despotism from beginning to end. In no other country would the infliction of such terrible sufferings as the order will involve be permitted, but in India "even municipal authorities have the privilege of treating their bread-winners as slaves."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th April 1905.

Ibid.

540. The same journal writes that in consequence of the notice that the supply of filtered water would be curtailed on the 10th, many people set about at great cost purchasing earthen vessels for storing the water and sat up all night collecting it, but the supply on the following day was not curtailed for a single moment and continued uninterrupted till 9 P.M. How long will the citizens of Calcutta put up with this tyranny? Who is responsible for playing the fool with the rate-payers and putting them to all this suffering and expense?

BENGALEE, 11th April 1905.

The Accounts Department of the Calcutta Corporation.

541. The *Bengalee*, in noticing the recent Resolution of the Government of India on Calcutta municipal loans, finds that even that Government regard the Accounts Department of the Corporation as being inefficient. This was not said of the Department under the old elected Corporation, nor was it thought necessary to provide the then Chief Accountant with a princely salary. He drew Rs. 400 a month and there was never any bungling nor scandal. All this has been the creation of the new Act.

INDIAN MIRROR, 12th April 1905.

The South Barrackpur Municipality and the Barrackpur People's Association.

542. The *Indian Mirror* refers to the memorial submitted to Government by certain residents of Barrackpur, praying that the name of the Barrackpur People's Association may be removed from the list of public Associations recognised by Government, and draws attention to the counter-memorial submitted by the Association pointing out that some of the signatories to the other memorial are the very men against whom the

Association previously had occasion to make serious allegations of misdoings in the South Barrackpur Municipality. The journal hopes the Government will hold a sifting enquiry into the charges made by the Association, of whose respectability and usefulness it speaks in favourable terms.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th April 1905.

543. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the question and answer in Council with regard to the Manicknagar Ghat Road and Messrs. Duff & Co., and asks why the Government should not consult the wishes of the people in the same way as it is disposed to take Messrs. Duff & Co. into its bosom. If the Company prefer the Manicknagar Ghat Road the public equally object to the road being closed, and would prefer the closing of the Paikpara Road instead. The Government should be religiously impartial, but in this case it favours an English Company at the sacrifice of the interests of the people.

The Manicknagar Ghat Road.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th April 1905.

544. While expressing disappointment at Sir Andrew Fraser's rule in Bengal and his encouragement at Barisal and Monghyr of the further illegitimate diversion of the Road Cess Fund, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is gratified to find that His Honour has at last realized the true situation, as evidenced in his last budget speech. When the tax was first imposed the Government promised that it would be levied and spent by the cess-payers themselves for the improvement of village roads paths, wells, tanks &c. This however, was never done so the annual grant of 12½ lakhs which it is now proposed to make, for improving the financial condition of Boards, means that the Government is going to disgorge a portion of the road-cess money amounting to about 12 crores which has been raised during the last 40 years. It is hoped that steps will be taken to prevent future illegal diversion of the fund.

Important admissions regarding road-cess.

(*g*)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

BENGALEE, 9th April 1905.

545. The *Bengalee* complains that since the 10th April, in consequence of the new timing of trains on the East Indian Railway, letters from Calcutta, which used to be delivered at Simultala at 9 A.M., are now delivered at 6 P.M., and that whilst there were formerly two deliveries in a day, there is now only one delivery in the evening.

A postal complaint.

The journal hopes the Postal authorities will act on the suggestion it offers for removing this grievance.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th April 1905.

546. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Midnapore correspondent writes that Mr. Streatfield, the Station-Master of Midnapore, has made himself very unpopular and should be replaced by a more sympathetic officer. He stands charged at present under sections 504 and 352, Indian Penal Code.

An unpopular Station-Master.

(*h*)—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 9th April 1905.

547. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* likens Sir Andrew Fraser's protection of Mr. Carey, Magistrate of Hooghly, against public criticism, to the protection afforded by Sir Charles Elliott to the late Mr. H. A. D. Phillips, who, encouraged by the sympathy and solicitude of his Lieutenant-Governor, went headlong on his career till he ultimately insulted the Maharaja of Mymensingh and had to make an abject apology to save himself from the payment of heavy damages. Mr. Carey likewise tramples law, procedure, and decency under foot, because he has come to realize that he will not be seriously dealt with. If he had been corrected in the beginning, when the Press first brought his illegalities to notice, he would have avoided some of the subsequent scandals with which his name has been mixed up.

Mr. Carey, Magistrate of Hooghly.

BENGALEE, 11th April 1905.

148. Reviewing the question and answer in the Bengal Council relating to Mr. Carey's action in the case of Arzoon Khan, of Serampore, the *Bengalee* asks:—"What are things coming to when thieves and burglars receive the sympathy of the Magistrate and the Government has not a word of condemnation for the Magistrate?"

Ibid.

Mr. Carey's conduct in relation to his *mali* was lately condemned by the Chief Justice as improper. By his own confession again he committed an assault on Nundi. In view of these accumulated instances of indiscretion, does the Government really think Mr. Carey fit to be left in charge of a district?

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th April 1905.

Mr. Carey, Magistrate of Hooghly.

549. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that the people of Manbhum are panic-stricken at the news that Mr. Carey will succeed Mr. Lang as Deputy Commissioner of the district.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th April 1905.

Ibid.

550. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a list of eight cases showing the vagaries committed by Mr. Carey, District Magistrate of Hooghly, compiled by a correspondent.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA. 12th and 13th

The office of the Deputy Comptroller, Post Office.

551. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a series of complaints in both its issues against the treatment accorded to the hard-worked clerks of the office of the Deputy Comptroller of the Post Office, who are made to work overtime and are generally treated like beasts of burden. Who, it asks, is to look after their welfare if it is not the Viceroy? His Excellency has himself said that his heart aches at the sufferings of the poor millions.

BENGALEE. 13th April 1905.

Dacoity and gun licenses.

552. The *Bengalee* writes that on receipt of information that a gang of dacoits intended visiting Garalgacha, a village in the Hooghly district, the terror-stricken residents with all their valuables sought the protection of those gentlemen who possessed gun licenses. In these circumstances, the journal is surprised at the recent *parwana* issued by Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate, calling upon all holders of gun licenses to show cause why their licenses should not be forfeited. It hopes the District Magistrate will realise the advisability of recalling his *parwana*, which has intensified the panic in the village.

AMRITA BAZAR BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th April 1905.

The Conference of Commissioners.

553. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hears that there will be another Conference of Commissioners and heads of departments during the present season at Darjeeling. At the last conference certain revolutionary measures were hatched, which have resulted in the Board of Revenue being converted into a part and parcel of the Secretariat and in District Judges being deprived of certain rights and converted into the subordinates of Commissioners.

The journal does not see why Members of the Board who have all along done their work in the plains, should now be allowed to live in Darjeeling. There has been a wastage of public money and more strengthening of the executive as a result of the Conference of Commissioners.

BENGALEE, 15th April 1905.

Preservation of forests and rain.

554. The *Bengalee* condemns the short-sighted policy of Government in allowing the wholesale destruction of trees for the sake of timber. The connection between the preservation of forests and rainfall has been well established, and the consumption of wood in the 43 mills at Ahmedabad is responsible for the extremely deficient rainfall there during the past two years.

BENGALEE, 16th April 1905.

Fever and cholera in Bengal.

555. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Government to adopt a complete scheme of drainage and water-supply affecting the most insanitary parts of Bengal. The more pressing sanitary requirements of rural areas appear to have been completely overlooked in framing the Provincial Budget, and in attending to this task, the Government will give health and happiness to millions of people who are now being decimated by fever and cholera.

BENGALEE, 16th April 1905.

The Government and the protest meeting at the Calcutta Town Hall.

556. The *Bengalee* considers that the Government of India's decision in declining to forward the resolutions to the Secretary of State, as requested by Dr. Ghose, betrays a lamentable error of judgment and appears very indecorous. Since the entire policy of Lord Curzon was challenged, His Excellency should have refrained from making such a petulant attempt to gag the mouths, as it were, of his opponents. This is similar to his refusal to accept the Congress resolutions from Sir Henry Cotton, and earns the contempt of all right-thinking men and the disapprobation of even the most bigoted of the Viceroy's admirers.

V.—Prospects of the Crops and Condition of the People.

557. The *Bengalee* reverts to the subject of the employment of experts to study the natural history of the plague, and remarks that the despatch of the Government of India to the Secretary of State, dated the 25th August 1904, recommending this course, is a confession of one of the gravest blunders ever committed by an administration claiming almost a monopoly of intelligence and wisdom. Why did not the idea occur to the Government all these years? Science would have been nearer the solution of the mystery that surrounds this dread malady.

The plague policy.

Bengalee, 10th April 1905.

558. The *Indian Mirror* eulogises the fever mixture prescribed by Dr. Grish Chandra Dutt, L.M.S., and hopes the Lieutenant-Governor will see his way to testing the medicine. Dr. Dutt is prepared to supply it free of cost to advance the cause of science and independent research, and further the well-being of his countrymen who are decimated year by year notwithstanding all that Government is doing to grapple with the evil.

A medicine for malaria fever.

Indian Mirror, 11th April 1905.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

559. To make the Provincial Conference a useful and permanent body, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recommends carrying on political agitation in a sustained and systematic manner. Before doing so, however, it is urged that the masses should be educated through paid agents who will go among the people and, with the help of their leaders, instruct them in various matters of which they are now perfectly ignorant. The Conference is also urged to follow the methods adopted by the organizers of the Jhinkergatcha meeting. Such acts will show that the country is not asleep and that not only the educated classes but the masses demand reforms. It will cause the authorities to respect public opinion, and will strengthen the hands of India's friends in England.

How to make Provincial Conferences useful.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 17th April 1905.

Office of the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.
Writers' Buildings,
The 22nd April 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

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